ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

August 28, 2012

Ms. Linda Pemberton
Office of the City Attorney
P.O. Box 1329
Killeen, Texas 76540-1329

OR2012-13561

Dear Ms. Pemberton:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 467486 (No. W008636).

The Killeen Police Department (the "department") received a request for information related to a specified incident involving a named individual. You state some of the requested information has been released. You claim other responsive information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime . . . if . . . release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime[.]" Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). A governmental body must reasonably explain how and why section 552.108 is applicable to the information at issue. *See id.* § 552.301(e)(1)(A); *Ex parte Pruitt*, 551 S.W.2d 706 (Tex. 1977).

We note the submitted information includes a DIC-24 statutory warning form and a DIC-25 notice of suspension form, which we have marked. Because copies of those documents are provided to the person who is the subject of the warning and the notice, we find the release of the statutory warning and the notice of suspension will not interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See* Gov't Code § 552.108(a)(1). Therefore, the statutory warning and the notice of suspension may not be withheld under section 552.108.

You state the information at issue is related to a pending prosecution. Based on your representation, we find release of the remaining information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime. *See Houston Chronicle Publ'g Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1975) (court delineates law enforcement interests present in active cases), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976).

We also note section 552.108 does not except from disclosure "basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime." *Id.* § 552.108(c). Section 552.108(c) refers to the basic front-page offense and arrest information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle*. *See* 531 S.W.2d at 186-88; Open Records Decision No. 127 at 3-4 (1976) (summarizing types of information deemed public by *Houston Chronicle*). Basic offense and arrest information must be released, even if the information does not literally appear on the front page of an offense or arrest report. You inform us the department has released basic information. We therefore conclude the department may withhold the information at issue, except for the statutory warning and the notice of suspension, under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code.

Lastly, we note the statutory warning and the notice of suspension contain a driver's license number. Section 552.130 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure information related to a motor vehicle operator's or driver's license or permit issued by an agency of this state or another state or country.[1] *See* Gov't Code § 552.130(a)(1). The department must withhold the driver's license number we have marked under section 552.130 of the Government Code.

In summary, the department (1) may withhold the information at issue under section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code, except for the statutory warning and the notice of suspension; (2) must withhold the marked driver's license number under section 552.130 of the Government Code; and (3) must release the remaining information in the warning and the notice.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free,

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[1]This office will raise section 552.130 on behalf of a governmental body, as this section is a mandatory exception to disclosure. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.007, .352; Open Records Decision No. 674 at 3 n.4 (2001) (mandatory exceptions).

at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

Cindy Nettles
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

CN/dls

Ref: ID# 467486

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)